LIBRARY

## BOROUGH OF LEOMINSTER

**HEREFORDSHIRE** 



## ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH for the Year

1951

### Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health ... L. N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Appointed 29th Jan., 1951).

Sanitary Inspector ... ... A. S. SMITH, M.S.I.A., C.R. San. I., Cert. Meat and other Foods, Cert. C.I.S.

> Municipal Offices, Grange Court, Leominster. (Tel: Leominster 257).

Clerk — Area Medical Office ... G. PROSSER.

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Leominster.

Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Leominster Borough Council.

l have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951, which has been compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 42/51.

During 1951 the citizens of the Borough of Leominster enjoyed freedom from any epidemics of infectious disease.

The provision of more houses should be a priority need of the Borough, for while approximately a third of the population in Leominster live in houses which are sub-standard, and conditions of overcrowding exist in so many of these homes, the state of the public health is being constantly threatened.

l wish to thank the Mayor and Members of the Council for their interest and support and the Town Clerk, Mr. Downs, the Borough Surveyor, Mr. Schofield and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Stuart Smith and their staffs for their help and cooperation at all times.

l am,

Your obedient servant, L. N. GOULD,

Medical Officer of Health.

#### SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)			•••	•••			•••	8,728
Population			•••	•••		•••		6,206
Number of inhabited	d houses	(end	of 1951)	according	to the	Rate	Books	1,756
Rateable Value			•••				•••	£37,025
Sum represented by	a Penny	Rate						£145 5 6

#### EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

			Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)		•••	116	59	57
(Illegitimate)	•••	•••	5	4	1
				<del></del>	
Total		•••	121	63	58
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)		•••	Nil		
(Illegitimate)	•••		Nil		
			_		
Total		•••	Nil		
DEATHS		•••	66	31	35
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL	CAU	SES	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDE	ER O	NE			
YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate	e)		2	1	1
(Illegitimat	e)		Nil		

#### COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1951.

•••	•••	19.5
•••	•••	15.5
•••	•••	Nil
•••	•••	0.36
•••	•••	10.6
•••	•••	12.5
•••	•••	16.5
•••		29.6

#### SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory, County Hospital, Hereford.

The number of specimens sent by the Public Health Department to the laboratory for bacteriological examination from the Northern Districts of Herefordshire during the year is as follows:—

Examined for:—

				Positive	Negative	Total
•••	•••		•••	2 ]	106	555
			•••	67 ∫	400	222
	•••	•••	•••	2 (	110	165
•••	•••		•••	53 {	***	
		•••	•••	1	20	21
mination	ns					
bs, etc.	)		•••	2	16	18
	 (Blood) mination		(Blood)	(Blood) minations		

#### **CLINICS**

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:-

#### SCHOOL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Minor Ailments Clinic Monday and Friday, 10.0 to 11.0 a.m. Orthopaedic Clinic Tuesdays (By appointment) Wednesdays (By appointment) Speech Therapy Clinic Thursdays (By appointment)
First Friday of each month, 11.0 a.m. Child Psychology Vaccination Infant Welfare Clinic Dental Clinic Fridays, 2.0 to 4.0 p.m. Fridays, 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

All the above clinics are held in the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital.

Child Welfare Centre: at Weobley, on the first Monday in each month at 2.30 p.m., and at Dilwyn on the last Monday in each month at 2.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic: Organised on a voluntary basis and held at the Hospital annexe.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

The object of the Minor Ailments Clinic is to give treatment for minor medical conditions before they develop into anything more serious and require the time and attention of the child's own doctor. It is thus preventive in nature. The clinic also serves a useful purpose in that regular supervision can be mainained over children with defects—such as visual and orthopaedic defects—and is thus of assistance to the Education Authority.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

The Borough's water supply is obtained from three sources, namely, a deep well at Worcester Road, a well at Midsummer Meadow and a well known as the Western Supply. The water is collected at the pumping station from these three sources and pumped to the reservoir at Newlands by electric pumps. Chemical and bacteriological examination of the raw water supply reveals that the water remains good. 99 samples after chlorination were taken, 7 not being up to standard. All re-samples proved satisfactory.

l am indebted to Mr. A. S. Smith, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

#### SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS WATER

Chlorination of piped water was continued throughout the year. At the Waterworks Pumping Station a modern type Chlorination Plant has been installed.

#### PIPED SUPPLIES (Public Water Mains)

(1) The Piped water supply of the area and of its several parts has in general been satisfactory (a) in quality (b) in quantity.

#### (2) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS:

#### (a) RAW WATER BEFORE TREATMENT - Six samples

taken of which four reported upon as very satisfactory. Number of samples taken in which Bact. Coli absent in 100 ml ... Percentage of samples in which Bact. Coli absent in 100 ml ... Number of samples in which Bact. Coli found in 100 ml ...

#### ANALYSES - RAW WATER BEFORE TREATMENT.

Number of Coliform Bacilli in 100 ml.	Number of Samples	Observations
0		Very satisfactory.
1	1	Occasional coliform organisms of excretal origin.
3	1	Few coliform organisms, an occas- ional one being of excretal origin.
	T . 1	
	Total 6	

(b) WATER AFTER CHLORINATION — Ninety-nine samples taken of which ninety-two reported upon as very satisfactory. Seven samples not up to standard expected of Chlorinated supply.

Number of samples in which Bact. Coli absent in 100 ml ... 92
Percentage of samples in which Bact. Coli absent in 100 ml ... 93%
Number of samples in which Bact. Coli found in 100 ml ... 7

#### ANALYSES — WATER AFTER CHLORINATION.

Number of Coliform Bacilli in 100 ml.	Number of Sample	Observations.
0	92	Very satisfactory.
1	2	Occasional organisms not of
1	1	excretal origin. Small number of organisms
1	1	of excretal origin. Few organisms not of excretal
8	1	origin present.  Large number of coliform organisms of excretal origin.
11	1	Moderate number of coliform organisms some being of
13	1	excretal origin.  Moderate number of organisms of excretal origin.
	T-1-1 00	
	Total 99	

#### CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS:

Raw water before treatment — One sample taken and result appears to be satisfactory.

Water after Chlorination — One sample taken and result appears to be satisfactory.

No plumbo-solvent action - hard water.

(4) Action in respect of any form of contamination — Immediate re-sampling.

All re-Samples reported upon as satisfactory.

(5) Number of dwelling houses and population supplied from Public Water Mains:—

(a) Direct to houses — 1,559 houses. Approximate population 5,300.
 (b) By means of stand pipes: 42 houses. Approximate population 150.

#### SHALLOW WELLS or SPRING WATER SUPPLIES

The approximate number of houses relying on spring or well water is as follows:—

#### REMARKS

The following Out-Parish areas are not provided with piped supplies: Brierley, Elms Green, Stagbatch, Hyde Ash, Aulden and Wintercott, Stretford and Hennor, Wharton and Marlbrook. In general the water supplies for houses in Out-Parish areas are private shallow wells, usually unlined and of a type subject to contamination.

Five tenders for carrying out the construction of the Hyde Ash water main were received during the year, and details of the lowest tender submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government with a view to the approval of the department being obtained to its acceptance.

OPEN AIR SWIMMING BATH — Water samples taken direct from Swimming Pool.

#### **ANALYSES**

of Samples
27
2
32

Previous to the opening of the Swimming Bath for the Summer season, the Borough Surveyor had the pressure Filter emptied, the nozzles and filter cleansed, the filter media washed, cleansed and replaced in filter shell.

All water from the Swimming Pool is subject to treatment by special plant with ammonia and chlorine gas, and filtered through a high pressure sand filter prior to the return of water to shallow end of pool.

A complete turnover of water in the Swimming Pool takes places every tour hours.

#### SAMPLES TAKEN AND SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS.

(a)	Piped supplies (House taps,			Midsur	nmer	
	Meadow Well and Western S	Supply Well	)		•••	107
	Wells and Springs	•••	•••	•••	•••	12
(c)	Swimming Bath (Bacteriological)	•••			•••	32

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

House Drains and other Buildings	*		
Smoke, colour and water tests		 •••	2
New drains laid (old premises)		 	2
Cleansed, trapped or ventilated		 	37
Inspection chambers built (old pre	emises)	 	5
Septic Tanks built or cleansed	´	 •••	1

BOROUGH PROPER — Drainage of old premises is in the main poor, consisting usually of unjointed pipes, devoid of inspection chambers or ventilation shafts.

No BOROUGH Sewage Works exists and sewage disposal is to an open ditch.

Four tenders for carrying out the reconstruction of Ryelands Road sewer have been received and details of the lowest tender submitted to the appropriate Government Department for approval to its acceptance. The scheme is for a 15in. sewer from the junction of Westfield Walk to Etnam Street. The existing sewer is loaded to capacity and is incapable of dealing with the additional flow which will result from the additional houses proposed to be erected on the Westfield Walk Estate.

OUT-PARISH — New houses drained to Septic Tanks. Old houses generally feed to ditches.

Number of houses drained to sewer:

Borough Proper	•••	•••	•••	•••	1,412
Out-Parish	•••	•••	•••	•••	22
. 1 . 1 .					

Number of houses not drained to sewer:

Borough Proper	•••	•••	•••		29
Out-Parish	•••	•••	•••	•••	292

#### CLOSETS.

Additional closets p		houses	and	other	buildin	gs)	•••	4
Conversion or renev	wals						•••	7

BOROUGH PROPER — Common usage of closets, usually by the occupants of two houses, prevail in some cases. A type of closet existing is the long hopper with a wooden surround. As new houses come into being, and areas are cleared, common usages will cease.

Out-Parish — Pails and privy closets predominate.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS

Several houses in North Road were flooded during the year under review.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL

Tipping was continued at the public tip with satisfactory results. Treatment of the tip against rodents is carried out periodically.

The refuse collection service instituted last year for the Out-Parish is proceeding satisfactorily. The whole of the Borough and the Out-Parish is now served by refuse collection vehicles. Collections take place weekly or fortnightly according to locality.

#### TENTS AND CARAVANS

Camping d						registered.		
Number of	caravans in	Borough	and	Out-Parish	•••	•••	•••	5
Caravans re	emoved	•••			•••		•••	6
Visits							•••	9

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

#### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

#### INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Num	ber of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	_	_	_
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	44	9	_
Total	82	44	9	

#### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found						
Particulars		Found	Remedied	Reference to H.M. Inspector		which suoinnoesoid were instituted	
Want of cleanliness	•••	7	6	_		-	
Sanitary Conveniences: (a) Insufficient		2	1	_		"	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	•••	1	-	Constitution	1		
Total		10	7	_	1	_	

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

None in the Borough or Out-Parish.

#### DIRTY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

Premises fumigated ... 10.

#### DISINFECTION on account of INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Premises fumigated ... 8.
Mode of disinfection — Formalin lamps and liquid spraying.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The sewers received two treatments at certain manholes. Little evidence of rat infestation was found in the sewers. The Public Abattoir and Refuse Tip received periodic treatments.

#### SEWERS

Number of manholes treated	•••			14
Number of treatments	•••	•••	•••	2

# RODENT CONTROL

		Ė	Type of Property		
			broder to ad	All other	
	Local	Dwelling	Agri-	including	Total
	Silver Company	e con		and Industrial	
I.—Total number of properties in Local Authorities district	=	1,598	73	259	1,941
II.—Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during	(a) —	27	_	7	35
	9 (q)	220	ı	239	465
III.—Number of properties (under II.)	Major 3	5		12	21
found to be infested by rats	Minor 3	62	1	32	6
IV.—Number of properties (under II.) found to be seriously infested by Mice	I	I	1	1	I
V.—Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	9	29	_	44	118
VI.—Number of notices served under Section 4: (1) Treatment	1	1		-	I
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	1	1	[*	_	1
Total		1	I	1	1
VII.—Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local					
4	ı	1	i	ı	1
VIII.—Legal Proceedings	1	-	1	1	1
IX.—Number of "block control" schemes carried out	9				

#### SANITARY INSPECTION

## TABLE SHOWING INSPECTIONS, ETC. CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR TOGETHER WITH THE ACTION TAKEN AND THE RESULTS

INSPECTIONS, Etc. UNDER	NUMBER	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices complied with
Housing (1936) Act	21		_	
Housing (Public Health Acts)	216	++ ^	*	-
Factories	44	114	12	101
Dairies	38	10		7
Milk Samples	52	_		
Food Premises and Kitchens	67	10	_	8
Abattoir	936		_	
Drains (Smoke, Colour & Water Te	ests) 2	_		_
Water samples	151	6		1
Infectious Diseases	32	_	_	
Rodent Control	465	68		68
lce Cream Premises	32			—
Ice Cream Samples	25	1		1
Miscellaneous Visits (P.H. Act)	45	17	-	14
Schools - School Camps	2			
Tents and Caravans	16	6		6
Verminous Premises	10	_	_	10

Defects Remedied ... ... 143 Dustbins Renewed ... ... 49

#### SECTION D. HOUSING

#### LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR ACCOMMODATION:

At the end of December, 1951 the number of live applications for Council houses was 347, an increase of 77.

houses was 347, an increase of 77.	•										
CLASSIFICATION OF APPLICANTS IN BOROUGH AND OUT-PARISH			ber i 3				7	8	9	11	Total No. of Appns.
Number of families with separate home	6	17	44	28	16	6	1	1	discussion .	1	120
Number of families without separate home	5	53	62	29	5	_	1	******			155
OUTSIDE BOROUGH AND OUT-PARISH											
Number of families with separate home	1	5	8	12	4	3	2		1		36
Number of families without separate home	1	9	15	8	2	1					36
Total family units	13	84	129	77	27	10	4	1	1	1	347

On survey of the housing application forms it was found that certain applicants indicated ability to pay as follows:

CLASSIFICATION 10/ IN BOROUGH AND OUT-PARISH	V	Veekly /- 15/-			30/-		No Rent stated
Families with separate home 8 Families without separate home 1					20 27	17 46	19 12
OUTSIDE BOROUGH AND OUT-PARISH Families with separate home —							4
Families without separate home 1			  76	3 48	 63	9 	- <del>7</del> - <del>4</del> 2

As mentioned in the Annual Report eighty of the houses in confirmed Clearance areas are still occupied and several hundreds of houses in the same category are also fully occupied. Approximately one-third of the population of Leominster live in sub-standard dwelling-houses, whilst on the other hand a large proportion of the population in privately owned dwellings enjoy rentals within a range of 5/to 10/- per week inclusive of rates. The problem which must ultimately come to the fore is how to cater for the necessitous one-third of the population, not inclined to, or unable to meet, a rental of 31/6d. ruling for a three-bedroomed Council house.

The problem is particluarly serious in a rural community having regard to the fact that when houses were scheduled for clearance it was anticipated that occupants of the unfit houses would be re-housed in Council houses at rentals proximating to those prevailing in the clearance areas (rural standard type rentals) whereas on present prices any alternative replacement accommodation might have to be at rentals five to six times the rentals now paid by occupants of clearance area houses.

#### PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSING

Recommendations have been approved for the granting of fifteen private building licences. The maximum number of houses which the Council could permit to be erected by private enterprise was 30. The number of fifteen proposed leaves 45 houses to be erected by the Council.

#### WESTFIELD WALK ESTATE

Development. Council Houses. The number of Council houses provided for in the next instalment on the Westfield Walk site is 44. The Westfield Walk Estate comprises at the present time:—

- (a) Westfield Walk.
- (b) West Croft.
- (c) Sandpits.
- (d) Pump Piece.

With a total of 44 inhabited post-war Council houses. Development is continuing.

Sale of Plots of Land.

The Council's scheme to sell plots of land for private enterprise development has been approved of in principle.

#### GATEWAY LANE ESTATE

Development.

Site preparation work on the George Street site extension have now been completed, with the exception of the final surface, etc., of the footpaths. A new Infants' School is in course of construction off George Street, and it is expected that in the early future further Council houses will be ereced in George Street thus enlarging the existing Council Estate known as Gateway Lane which comprises:—

- (a) George Street
- (b) Churchill Avenue
- (c) Croft Street
- (d) Wigmore Street
- (e) Mortimer Street
- (f) Mortimer Place
- (g) Holland Road

The number of inhabited Council houses on the Gateway Lane Estate is 184.

Aged Persons Dwellings. Preliminary approval was given during the year by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to the Council's proposal to purchase a plot of land in Mortimer Street with a view to the site being used for the provision of dwellings for aged persons, etc.

The number of new houses completed and occupied during the year is as follows:—

#### COUNCIL HOUSES

(a) Permanent — Brick. Borough ... 16

#### PRIVATELY BUILT

The present housing position is approximately as follows:-

			CATE	GORIE	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Number of occupied privately owned premises (residential, working class							
premises (residential, working class flats or rooms over shops)		680	230	55	9	459	1,433
Number of Council houses occupied		350			_	5	355
Number of derelict void houses not							-11
demolished	•••						
		1,030	230	55	9	475	1,799

Category I — Satisfactory.

. 2 — Minor defects.

, 3 — Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.

,, 4 — Appropriate for re-conditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

5 - Requiring demolition and replacement.

Approximately 50% of the privately owned houses have no fixed baths.

#### STATISTICS RELATING TO COUNCIL HOUSES

			Built Pre-1939	Built Post-War 1947-51	Old houses acquired	Total
Caswell Estate Caswell Terrace			0			8
	•••	•••	8	_	_	28
Caswell Crescent	•••	•••	28	_	_	
Caswell Road	•••	•••	54	-	_	54
Worcester Road	•••	•••	8	_	_	8
GATEWAY LANE ESTA	ATE		43	4	_	47
Churchill Avenue				42		42
George Street				2	_	2
Mortimer Street			39	_	_	39
Mortimer Place			2	_	_	2
Holland Road			6	20*	_	26
Wigmore Street			10	16**	_	26
WESTFIELD ESTATE				9		9
Westfield Walk	•••	•••			_	17
West Croft		•••	_	16	•	**
Sandpits	•••	•••		14	_	14
Pump Piece	•••	•••	_	5	_	5
INDIVIDUAL AREAS						6
Cranes Lane	•••	•••	6		_	6
Rainbow Street	•••	•••	. 6	_		O
OUT-PARISH ESTATE Hengrave Green, Iv	ington			12**	_	12
OLD Houses Acquir	RED					
Bargates	•••	•••	-	_	3	3
Dishley Street	•••	•••		_	1	1
			210	140	5	355

<sup>\*</sup> Temporary prefabricated bungalows.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Permanent prefabricated houses (Airey Type).

VOID HOUSES DEMOLISHED DURING YEAR — UNDERTAKINGS ACCEPTED UNDER SECTION II, HOUSING ACT, 1936 — INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING YEAR:	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts 121 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 236	
(2) Number of houses found not to be in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation 15	
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:—  Proceedings under Public Health Act:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	
(a) By Owners 5	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner Nil Van Dwellings Nil	
Van Dwellings Nil	
HOUSES BUILT AND OCCUPIED DURING THE YEAR:	
(1) By Local Authority 16	
(2) Privately 3	
SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD  1. MILK SUPPLY.	
(1) Routine inspection of dairies.	
(2) Collection of samples of designated and non-designated milk for analyses.	
(a) Examination for bacterial cleanliness and heat treatment — Samples sent to County Laboratory, Hereford.	
(b) Examination for Tubercle Bacilli, etc. — Samples sent to Pathological Department, Worcester Royal Infirmary.	
(3) A large portion of milk supplies retailed in the district is designated milk and mainly pasteurised.	
2. NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN:	
Tuberculin Tested Milk          13         Pasteurised Milk          30         Ordinary Milk          9	
TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK	
Analyses of Samples	
Methylene Blue Test Number of Samples	
Not decolourised in $4\frac{1}{6}/5\frac{1}{6}$ hours 5	
Not decolourised in $4\frac{1}{2}/5\frac{1}{2}$ hours $5$ Decolourised in 3 hours $1$	
D 1 : 11: 21/2 House	

# PASTEURISED MILK

# ANALYSES OF SAMPLES

	No. of Satisfactory Samples	15
Blue Test	No. of samples decolourised in 30 mins.	Nii
Methylene Blue Test	No. of samples not decolourised in 30 mins.	17
ase Test	No. of samples giving a reading of more than 2.3 Lovibond Blue Units	2
Phosphatase Test	No. of samples giving a reading of less than 2.3 Lovibond Blue Units	15
	No. of samples taken	17

# TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (PASTEURISED)

## ANALYSES OF SAMPLES

	No. of Satisfactory Samples	13
Blue Test	No. of samples decolourised in 30 mins.	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	No. of samples not decolourised in 30 mins.	13
Phosphatase Test	No. of samples giving a reading of more than 2.3 Lovibond Blue Units	Nil
Phospha	No. of samples giving a reading of less than 2.3 Lovibond Blue Units	13
	No. of samples taken	13

To comply with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and Pasteurised Milk must not give a reading of more than 2.3 Lovibond Blue Units in the Phosphatase Test, and must not decolourise methylene blue in 30 minutes after storage in the laboratory at atmospheric shade temperature not exceeding 65 deg. F. until between 9.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. on the day following that on which the sample was collected.

#### ORDINARY MILK

#### ANALYSES OF SAMPLES — CHEMICAL TEST

Methylent Blue Test			Number	of samples
Not decolourised in 5½ hours		•••		1
Decolourised in 3 hours		•••		1
Decolourised in 4 hours		•••		2
N. 1	,			<del>_</del>
Number of s	amples	taken	•••	4

NOTE.—No standard is laid down for non-designated milk.

ANALYSES CF SAMPLES — BIOLOGICAL TEST

#### Number of Samples

- 5 ... UNDESIGNATED MILK. No sign of infection with M. Tuberculosis or Br. Abortus.
- 7 ... TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK. No sign of infection with M. Tuberculosis or Br. Abortus.
- 12 ... Number of samples taken.

#### 3. FOOD PREMISES, etc.

There are no food factories in the area other than retail shops, bakehouses, restaurants and hotel kitchens.

Routine inspections for cleanliness are carried out from time to time. Improvements following visits have been effected at several food preparing premises during the year. One unsatisfactory restaurant kitchen has been demolished, and constant hot water heaters and sinks installed in three premises.

No open stalls exist for the sale of meat or unwrapped meat products.

Byelaws have been made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and will come into operation on the 1st January, 1952.

#### ICE CREAM

The following prevails: -

- (1) No Ice Cream manufacturing premises in operation in the district.
- (2) All retail premises have electric continuous freezers.
- (3) Routine collection of samples for analyses from time to time.
  - (a) Examination for bacterial cleanliness Samples sent to County Laboratory, Hereford.

The following tables show the number of samples of Ice Cream taken, analyses and Grades:—

Methylene Blue Test	Number of Samples	Provisional Grades	Number of samples
Not decolourised at the end of 4½ hours	•	Number of samples falling in —	
Not decolourised at the end of 4 hours	16	Grade 1	19
Decolourised immediately ,, in 1 hour	1	,, 3	5 1
,, in $l\frac{1}{2}$ hours in 2 hours	,	,, 4	–
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1		
in 4 hours	2		
Total samples taken		Total samples taken	25

NOTE.—Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results of any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples over a six monthly period. 50% of vendors' samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

It will be observed from the above tables that no vendors' samples fell within Grade 4.

#### MEAT

Meat Inspection (Public Abattoir).—Centralised slaughtering under the Ministry of Food Scheme of control is in operation. Areas served are Leominster Borough, Leominster and Wigmore Rural District, Kington Urban and Rural Districts, and Weobley Rural District. Inspection is carried out by your Sanitary Inspector who is a qualified Meat Inspector.

The undernoted were slaughtered and inspected during the year:-

CATTLE			LAMBS		
excluding Cows	COWS	PIGS	SHEEP	CALVES	TOTAL
1.018	502	488	4.838	676	7.522

The figures are inclusive of the following dressed or partly dressed carcases received:—

1 Beast 14 Pigs 32 Sheep 1 Calf

Diseased Meat discovered and dealt with: -

#### ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcases conde		Beasts 45	Pigs 21	Sheep 110	Calves 34
Carcases of which so organ was conden Percentage of numb	nned per affected	548	104	800	10
with diseases other culosis	than Tuber-	39%	25.6%	18.8%	6.5%

#### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

	Beasts	Pigs	Sheep	Calves
Whole carcases condemned		3		1
Carcases of which some part	or			
organ was condemned	44	10		
Percentage of number affects	ed			
with Tuberculosis	4.5%	2.7%		.1%
Weight of diseased meat		Pigs	Sheep	Calves
discovered and dealt with	44,872lbs.	3,329lbs.	7.707lbs.	1,788lbs.
Тоты 25	tone 15 cm	t 0 are 16 l	he	

The percentage figures show the proportion of food animals found diseased.

METHOD OF INSPECTION.—In accordance with Ministry of Health Memorandum 62 (Foods), with certain relaxations.

#### **ABATTOIR**

The main building was built in 1877 and comprises: -

(a) Central lairage accommodation.

(b) 4 separate slaughtering bays (2 north and 2 south of the central lairage accommodation).

(c) Boiler house.

With the exception of the provision of a steam boiler and fittings, little or no improvements have been effected to the premises since the structure was erected.

The abattoir is, by modern standards, out-of-date, but the building could readily be adapted to meet modern requirements. Although there is no cooling room for carcases, no laboratory facilities or accommodation for the meat inspector, these could be provided quite easily by adaptation of a portion of the central lairage accommodation. Apart from improved hygienic conditions the building could be made capable of dealing with three to four times the present intake of animals.

The financial problem is difficult in that no monetary contributions are made by Local Authorities whose areas are served from the Abattoir, whilst the income from tolls falls far below the expenditure. The economic position, therefore, does not furnish any incentive to the Local Authority to go ahead with any scheme of improvement or modernisation.

The Abattoir answers a very useful purpose to farmers, smallholders and meat purveyors, and also performs a useful purpose under the Ministry of Food Scheme of control and distribution, particularly during the seasonal gluts.

#### ANTE-MORTEM and POST-MORTEM INSPECTIONS

In relation to the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Meat Inspection, it is not possible for your Inspector, owing to other duties, to be present at the Abattoir at the times of incoming of animals for slaughter, or at all times when slaughtering is in progress, and consequently no regular ante-mortem inspection or post-mortem inspection at the time of slaughter is possible. Inspections, however, of all carcases and organs are carried out daily, including evening and week-end work. Responsibility in regard to diseased or fevered carcases, casualty animals and dressed carcases received is a heavy one, in view of the fact that no provision has been made for any secondary opinion or assistance.

#### OTHER FOODS

The undernoted foods were surrendered during the year:-

22 tins Fish; 86 tins Fruit; 33 tins Vegetables; 48 tins Milk; 9 tins Jam; 32 tins Canned Meats; 27 tins Cooked Ham (287lbs.); 2 tins Soup; 2 tins Fish Paste; 13 jars Fish Paste; 113 lbs. Sugar Confectionery; 84 packets Sugar Confectionery; 2 Cakes; 13 packets Cake Mixture; 4 lb. Sausages; 16 tins Corned Beef (96lbs.).

#### RAG, FLOCK and OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES.

There are no premises in the Borough used for manufacturing bedding, toys, baby carriages or other articles of upholstery.

#### LICENSING OF PREMISES

There are no premises where rag flock is (a) manufactured or (b) stored for distribution to registered premises.

#### SECTION F .- PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES. ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE AGE OF PATIENT																
		0—1	1-2	23	3-4	4—5	2—6	2-9	7—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30-40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Pneumonia . Dysentery .	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- 1 -	3	2 3 4	5	2 3 1		2 2 -	2 1	3 -		1 1 1		- - - 5 - 1		17 22 9 6 1

#### FOOD POISONING

No cases were reported during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Two cases were brought to notice as being in need of care and attention. A man aged 67 was referred by the Police. Voluntary admission to the Old Priory was secured the same day. The second case was an elderly man reported by the General Medical Practitioner. He was found to be living alone and unable to devote to himself. Voluntary admission to suitable accommodation was arranged.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1951 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1937).

Age at 31. 12. 51.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	under 15
i.e. Born in year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1942- 1946	1937- 1941	
	4	49	64	69	87	430	318	1021

These figures compared with the Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year child population indicate that 49.3% of the child population under five years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 50.6% at the end of 1950. 81.2% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 67.5% at the end of the previous year. To sum up, 69.2% of the children under 15 years of age has been immunised compared with 61.1% for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

#### **TUBERCULOSIS**

At the end of 1951 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of twenty-six males and twenty-three females who normally reside within the Borough.

During the year fifteen new cases were notified, fourteen on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period one death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, three recovered and five left the district.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

DISEASE	Males	Females	Total
1.—Tuberculosis, respiratory	1		1
2. Tuberculosis, other			
3. Syphilitic disease	1		1
4. Diphtheria			
5. Whooping Cough		_	
6. Meningococcal infections	_	_	_
7. Acute poliomyelitis	_		_
8. Measles		_	_
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	_	_	_
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach		_	_
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	_		
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast		1	- 1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus		1	- 1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic			
neoplasms	4	4	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia		_	_
16. Diabetes		1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	5	9
18. Coronary disease, angina	2	_	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	5	8	13
21. Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	1	4	5
24. Bronchitis	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	_		_
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum			
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		_	
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	·	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	_	_
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	_	_	_
31. Congenital malformations	_		_
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	_	1	1.0
34. All other accidents	2	_	2
35. Suicide	_	_	_
36. Homicide and operations of war		-	_
All causes			66
All causes			00